

## GLOSSARY

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### A

**A.D.** – Anno Domini. Dating system devised in 525 to enumerate the years used with the Julian and Gregorian calendars, which are based on the traditionally reckoned year of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

**A-Weighted Sound Level** – Sound that is measured with a sound-level meter using the A-weighted response filter built into the meter circuitry. The A-weighted filter simulates the frequency response to the human ear.

**Access (road)** – Road used for passage to and along transmission line for purposes of construction and maintenance.

**Active Lek** – Any lek that has been attended by male greater sage-grouse during the strutting season. Presence can be documented by observing birds using the site or by signs of strutting activity.

**Active Raptor Nest Site** – Any identified raptor nest site that could provide a nesting opportunity for a raptor. Temporal and spatial stipulation will be applied.

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)** – An independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress on historic preservation matters and oversees the review of projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Affected Environment** – (1) A geographic area and the associated natural, human, and cultural resources that could be influenced by a proposed action. (2) The chapter in an environmental impact statement (EIS) that describes the existing condition of the environment.

**Agency Interdisciplinary Team** – A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline can provide insights on any stage of the problem and disciplines can combine to provide new solutions. Also Interdisciplinary Team.

**Aggregate** – A group or mass of distinct things gathered into, or considered as, a total or a whole.

**Albedo** – A measure of a material's ability to reflect sunlight (including the visible, infrared, and ultraviolet wavelengths) on a scale of 0 to 1. An albedo value of 0.0 indicates the surface absorbs all solar radiation, and a 1.0 albedo value represents total reflectivity. The *ENERGY STAR Reflective Roof Products* criteria specify an albedo of 0.65 or higher for low-slope roof applications and 0.25 for sloped roofs.

**Alignment** – The specific, surveyed route of a transmission line.

**All-terrain Vehicle (ATV)** – A wheeled or tracked vehicle, other than a snowmobile or work vehicle, designed primarily for recreational use or for the transportation of property or equipment exclusively on undeveloped road rights-of-way, marshland, open country, or other unprepared surfaces.

**Allotment** – An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments consist of BLM-administered land and usually include other federally managed, state-administered, and

private land. An allotment may include one or more pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

**Alluvium** – A general term for clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar consolidated material deposited during a comparatively recent geologic time by a stream or other body of running water in the bed of a stream, river, or floodplain, or as a cone or fan at the base of a mountain slope.

**Alternating Current** – The flow of electric charge periodically reverses direction. (In direct current [DC], the flow of electric charge is only in one direction.)

**Alternative (action)** – An option for meeting the stated need.

**Alternative (route)** – An optional path or direction for a transmission line.

**Ambient Air** – Any unconfined portion of the atmosphere: open air, surrounding air.

**Amendment** – The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved land-use plans using the prescribed provisions for resource management planning appropriate to the proposed action or circumstances.

**American Indian Tribe** – Any extant or historical tribe, band, nation, or other group or community of indigenous peoples in the United States that is federally recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States because of their status as Indians pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.D.C. 450 et seq.). An Indian tribe, situated within the boundaries of a state, exercises the powers of government and sovereignty, under the national government.

**Animal Unit Month (AUM)** – A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one animal unit for 1 month; also, a unit of measurement that represents the privilege of grazing one animal unit for 1 month. An animal unit is a standardized unit of measurement for range livestock or wildlife. Generally, one mature cow (1,000 pounds) or its equivalent, based on an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

**Annual (ecology)** – A plant that completes its development in one year or one season and then dies.

**Appeal** – A formal action requesting a decision be reviewed by a higher authority. For the BLM this usually means review by the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA).

**Anthropogenic** – Caused or influenced by humans.

**Aquifer** – A stratum of permeable rock, sand, etc., that contains water. Water source for a well.

**Archaeology** – The science that investigates the history of peoples by studying the material remains of past societies.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)** – A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) designation for an area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life from natural hazards.

**Artifact** – Any object showing human workmanship or modification, especially from a prehistoric or historic culture.

**Assessment (environment)** – An evaluation of existing resources and potential impacts to those resources from a proposed act or change to the environment.

**Attainment Area** – An area considered to have air quality as good as or better than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as defined in the Clean Air Act. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a nonattainment area for others.

**Authorized Officer** – Any employee of the Department of the Interior to whom has been delegated the authority to perform the duties defined. Under the BLM standard delegation (Manual 1203), this is no lower than the Field Office or District Manager. Delegation below this level should be specific to an individual and a specific right-of-way project.

**Avoidance** (as it relates to mitigation) – Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action (40 CFR 1508.20) (e.g., also may include avoiding the impact by moving the proposed action to a different time or location.).

**Avoidance Area** – an area designated in a land use plan, for which use for a right-of-way should be avoided if at all possible.

## B

**B.P.** – Before the present. As used in radiocarbon and other archaeological dating, the present is defined as A.D. 1950.

**Background** – The portion of the visual landscape lying from the outer limit of the middleground to infinity. Color and texture are subdued in this area, and visual sensitivity analysis is primarily concerned with the two-dimensional shape of landforms against the sky.

**Background Concentrations** – Background concentrations are an essential part of the total air quality concentration to be considered when determining source impacts. Background air quality includes pollutant concentrations due to (1) natural sources, (2) nearby sources other than those currently under consideration, and (3) unidentified sources.

**Batch Plant** – An area used for concrete mixing, temporary field office facility, material storage, and stations for equipment maintenance during construction of a transmission line. The area usually covers approximately 2 acres.

**Board Feet** – A lumber unit of measure. Each board foot is the volume of a 1-foot length of a board 1 foot wide and 1 inch thick.

**Bowen Ratio** – The ratio of energy available for sensible heating to energy available for latent heating.

**Burial** – Unmarked human interment or grave.

## C

**Cairn** – A stack or mound of rocks used to mark the locations of boundaries or mining claims.

**Candidate Species** – Any species included in the *Federal Register*'s Notice of Review being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Campsite** – A site occupied by a limited number of individuals either seasonally or for short periods of time. Such a site is frequently characterized by the presence of limited activity areas, artifact scatters (e.g., lithic debitage, lithic tools, ground stone, and ceramics), thermal features or scatters of fire-cracked rock.

**Capability** – The ability to generate or transmit power.

**Capacity** – The load-carrying ability, expressed in megawatts (MW), of generation, transmission, or other electrical equipment.

**Carbon Monoxide (CO)** – A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil fuel combustion. One of the six criteria pollutants.

**Casual Use** – Activities ordinarily resulting in no or negligible disturbance of the public or federal land, resources, or improvements. Examples of casual use include surveying, marking routes, and collection data to use to prepare applications of grants or temporary-use permits.

**Cenozoic** – An era of geologic time from the beginning of the Tertiary period (65 million years ago) to the present.

**Centerline** – A line along the approximate middle of a transmission line right-of-way.

**Circuit** – A complete, closed conducting path over which electric current may flow.

**Cist** – A constructed/enclosed storage place that may be above, partially or completely underground and either lined or unlined

**Clear and Restore** – Vegetation is cropped (i.e., pruned back or cut to near ground level) within the overland access route and work areas. The clearing is done carefully so the root ball of the plants remains intact. Upon completion, ruts are repaired and reseeded as specified by the agencies or landowners.

**Colluvium** – Soil and rock detritus accumulated at the bottom of a slope.

**Compensatory mitigation** – Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR 1508.20).

**Compensatory mitigation ecological durability** – Benefits from compensatory mitigation projects on compensatory mitigation sites persisting and influencing the landscape for as long as or longer than the projected impacts will negatively affect greater sage-grouse.

**Compensatory mitigation protective durability** – Protection of compensatory mitigation sites from future and conflicting land uses or disturbances for as long as or longer than the projected impacts will negatively affect greater sage-grouse.

**Compensatory mitigation reversals** – Damage to functioning compensatory mitigation sites that may be caused by natural disturbances (unintentional reversal, such as wildfire) or anthropogenic disturbances (intentional reversal, such as development) that shorten the intended duration of compensatory mitigation.

**Compensatory mitigation projects** – Specific, on-the-ground actions (mitigation measures) to improve habitats (e.g., chemical vegetation treatments).

**Compensatory mitigation sites** – The durable areas where compensatory mitigation projects will occur.

**Conductor** – The wire cable strung between transmission line towers through which the electrical current flows.

**Conformance** – A proposed action must be provided for specifically in a land use plan or, if not specifically mentioned, must be clearly consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan or plan amendment.

**Constraint** – Environmental or engineering conditions or management prescriptions for a specific area limiting or precluding access to or siting of structures or facilities (e.g., terrain, airports, utility exclusion areas, etc.).

**Contrast** – The effect of a striking difference in the form, line, color, or texture of an area being viewed.

**Contrast Rating** – A method of determining the extent of visual impact for an existing or proposed activity that would modify any landscape feature (land and water form, vegetation, and structures).

**Corona** – The discharge of energy from an energized transmission line that occurs when the voltage gradient exceeds the breakdown strength of air.

**Cooperating Agency** – Any agency that has special jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.6). Any federal, state, tribal, or local government jurisdiction with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency, by agreement with the lead agency, to assist the lead agency in developing an environmental assessment (EA) or EIS.

**Corridor** – A tract of land forming a passageway for linear utilities or transportation uses.

**Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)** – An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This council reviews federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

**Counterpoise** – Conductive cable buried in the ground at a transmission line tower to lower the resistance of the ground to conduct electricity.

**Cretaceous** – The final period of the Mesozoic era spanning the time between 145 and 65 million years ago.

**Criteria Pollutant** – The 1970 amendments to the Clean Air Act required the EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for certain pollutants known to be hazardous to human health. The EPA has identified and set standards to protect human health and welfare for six pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, total suspended particulates, sulfur dioxide, lead, and nitrogen oxide. The term “criteria pollutants” derives from the requirement that the EPA must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of these pollutants. It is on the basis of these criteria that standards are set or revised.

**Critical Habitat** – Any particular range or habitat component that is the determining factor in a population’s ability to maintain and reproduce at a certain level over the long term.

**Crucial Winter Range** – The portion of the winter range to which a wildlife species is confined during periods of heaviest snow cover.

**Cultural Resource** – Any resource associated with the human cultural environment; examples include artifacts and historic artifacts, archaeological sites, historic sites, ethnographic sites; historic properties, and traditional cultural properties.

**Cultural Assemblage** – The complete inventory of artifacts from a defined archaeological unit.

**Cumulative Effect** – The effect on the environment that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508.7).

**Current (electric)** – A flow of electrons in an electrical conductor. The strength or rate of movement of the electricity is measured in amperes.

## D

**Deadend Structure** – Transmission line tower structures that are more robust than tangent structures, used (1) to add longitudinal strength to the line; (2) at turning points (angles); (3) for added safety at crossings of other utilities (e.g., other transmission lines and roads); and (4) to interrupt long distances of suspension structures that would otherwise provide more exposure to catastrophic line failure over long distances.

**Debitage** – The waste material produced during the production of chipped stone tools.

**Decision-maker** – The agency official who has been delegated authority to approve an action and is responsible for issuing a decision to implement a proposed action. Synonyms include authorized official, authorized officer, responsible official, and responsible manager.

**Degradation** – The wearing down, or away, and general lowering or reduction of the earth's surface by the processes of weathering and erosion.

**Demand (electric)** – The rate at which electric energy is delivered to or by a system, part of a system or piece of equipment, at a given instant or averaged over any designated period of time.

**De minimis levels** – The minimum threshold for which a conformity determination must be performed, for various criteria pollutants in various areas.

**Dendroglyph** – A design or motif carved with a sharp element into the trunk of living trees.

**Design Features of the Proposed Action** – Measures or procedures incorporated into the proposed action or an alternative, including measures or procedures that could reduce or avoid adverse impacts. Because these features are “built into” the proposed action or alternative, design features are not considered mitigation.

**Designated Utility (or Right-of-way) Corridor** – A parcel of land with specific boundaries identified by law, Secretarial order, the land-use planning process, or other management decision as being a preferred

location of existing and future rights-of-way. The corridor may be suitable to accommodate more than one type of right-of-way or one or more rights-of-way that are similar, identical, or compatible.

**Direct Current** – The flow of electric charge is only in one direction. (In alternative current [AC], the flow of electric charge periodically reverses direction.)

**Direct Effect** – Effects caused by the action (i.e., construction) and occur at the same time and place (40 CFR 1508.8(a)).

**Discharge (water)** – The rate of flow or volume of water flowing in a stream at a given location or within a given period of time.

**Dispersed Recreation** – Recreation activities of an unstructured type that are not confined to specific locations such as recreation sites. An example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, off-highway vehicle use, hiking, and sightseeing.

**Distance Zone** – A visibility threshold distance where visual perception changes. The zones are usually defined as foreground, middleground, and background.

**Distributed Generation** – A method of generating electricity from multiple small energy sources very near to where the electricity is actually used.

**Distribution System** – The portion of an electric system that is dedicated to delivering electric energy to an end user.

**Diversity** – The relative abundance or wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitat, or habitat features per unit of area.

**Drive and Crush** – Driving overland within a staked overland access route. The landscape is not altered other than compaction of soil under the vehicle tires/tracks, and the vegetation may be crushed but not cleared or uprooted.

**Dump** – A formal or informal concentration of historic trash, related to subsistence practices and containing single or multiple episodes of deposition.

## E

**Ecology** – The relationship between living organisms and their environment.

**Economic Base** – An area's economic base comprises industries that are primarily responsible for bringing outside income into the local economy. Economic base analysis measures the relative importance of industries for a particular area by comparing employment and income levels to a reference area (e.g., the United States).

**Ecosystem** – A complex system composed of a community of plants and animals and includes the system's chemical and physical environment.

**Effect** – Impact on the human environment brought about by an agent of change or action. Effects analysis predicts the degree to which the environment will be affected by an action. The Council on Environmental Quality uses the terms "effect" and "impact" synonymously in the NEPA regulations.

Other synonyms include consequence, result, and outcome. Effects can be beneficial or detrimental, and may be direct, indirect, or cumulative.

**Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF)** – A space or region within which magnetic forces are present around an electrical current (also referred to as electromagnetic field).

**Electric Field** – Electric effect resulting from the voltage on a transmission line. Measured as volts per meter or kilovolts per meter.

**Emergent (vegetation)** – Vegetation with all or part of their vegetative and reproductive parts above the water.

**Endangered Species** – A plant or animal species whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, as designated by the Secretary of the Interior. It is further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

**Endemic** – Plants or animals native to a particular region or country.

**Environment** – The surrounding conditions, influences, or forces that affect or modify an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** – A detailed written statement, as required by Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, when an agency proposes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

**Environmental Justice** – The pursuit of equal justice and equal protection under the law for all environmental statutes and regulations without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and/or socioeconomic status. Federal agencies must incorporate environmental justice as part of their mission by identifying and addressing the effects of programs, policies, and activities to ensure the opportunity for full and fair participation by affected communities in the decision-making process; and avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

**Eocene** – The epoch of the Tertiary period spanning the time between 56 and 33.9 million years ago.

**Eolian** – Wind-blown sand or silt material, which when deposited forms dunes or small sandy ridges.

**Ephemeral** – Present only during a portion of the year. Generally refers to water courses.

**Erosion** – The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents.

**Escarpment** – A steep slope or cliff formed by erosion or, less often, by faulting.

**Exclusion Area** – An area identified through land-use plans or in the process of designating corridors for which rights-of-way are to be excluded.

**Ethnography** – The study and systematic recording of human cultures. Also the descriptive body of work produced from such research.

**Extirpate** – To destroy completely.

**Extraction** – The act of extracting or drawing a substance out of the earth (e.g., mining).



## F

**Fault** – A fracture or fracture zone in the earth’s surface along where there has been displacement of the sides, relative to one another and parallel to the fracture.

**Fauna** – The wildlife or animals of a specified region or time.

**Feature** – A complex artifact or part of a site such as a thermal feature, soil stain, depression, rock alignment, or activity area.

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** – The agency primarily responsible for ensuring adequate energy supplies at just and reasonable rates and providing regulatory incentives for increased productivity, efficiency, and competition.

**Federal Land** – All lands owned by the United States except land (1) in the National Park System, (2) held in trust for an Indian or Indian tribe, or (3) on the Outer Continental Shelf.

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)** – Public Law 94-579 of October 21, 1976. This law is often referred to as the BLM’s Organic Act, which provides the majority of the BLM’s legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance.

**Federal Register** – The official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents. The *Federal Register* is published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

**Fire-cracked Rock** – Rock which has been discolored, cracked or altered by exposure to fire.

**Fishery** – The complex of interactions within and between the population(s) of fish being harvested, the population(s) or anglers, and the environment of each.

**Floodplain** – The portion of a river or stream valley, adjacent to the river channel, which is built of sediments and inundated with water when the stream overflows its banks.

**Forage** – All browse and herbaceous foods available to grazing animals that may be grazed or harvested for feeding.

**Foreground** – The visible area from a viewpoint or use area out to a distance of 0.5 mile. The ability to perceive detail in a landscape is greatest in this zone.

**Foreground-Middleground** – The area visible from a travel route, residence, or other use area to a distance of 3 to 5 miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. Vegetation is apparent only in patterns or outline.

**Fossil** – The remains or traces of an organism or assemblage of organisms preserved by natural processes in the earth’s crust; exclusive of organisms buried since the beginning of historical time.

**Fuels Management** – Fuels are vegetation (alive or dead) that can carry fire. Management of fuels includes attempting to modify fire behavior should a wildland fire occur.

**Fugitive Emissions** – Fugitive emissions are air pollutant emissions from facilities or activities that could not reasonably pass through a stack, chimney, vent, or other equivalent opening.

**Fugitive Dust** – Dust put into the atmosphere by the wind blowing over plowed fields, dirt roads, or desert or sandy areas with little or no vegetation. Also caused by mechanically generated particulate matter emissions put into the air by reason of vehicles or equipment moving soil or driving over unpaved roads (or dirty paved roads) and dusty areas.

## G

**Gauss** – Measurement of the magnetic flux intensity (intensity of magnetic field attraction per unit area).

**Generation source** – Generating facilities convert various forms of energy into electric power.

**Genus** – One of the major taxonomic groups used to scientifically identify plants or animals. Several closely related species, or one species, make up one genus, while several genera or one genus make up a family.

**Geologic Formations** – A rock unit distinguished from adjacent deposits by some common character, such as its composition, origin, or the type of fossil associated with the unit.

**Geology** – The science that relates to the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the changes the earth has undergone or is undergoing.

**Geothermal Resource** – Heat found in rocks and fluids at various depths that can be extracted by drilling or pumping for use as an energy source. This heat may be residual heat, friction heat, or a result of radioactive decay.

**Grant** – Any authorization or instrument (e.g., easement, ease, license, or permit) the BLM issues under Title V of the FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1761 et seq. The term includes those authorizations and instruments the BLM and its predecessors issued for like purposes before October 21, 1976, under the existing statutory authority. It also includes any authorization or instrument the BLM issues pursuant to other right-of-way authorities such as the Act of March 3, 1891 (43 U.S.C. 946-951) as to other than public and National Forest land. It does not include authorizations issued under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185). Grassland Reserve Program – A program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency that provides financial assistance to landowners and operators to protect eligible grazing lands by voluntarily limiting future development and crop uses on the lands. (Food Security Act of 1985)

**Grid** – A transmission grid is a network of high-voltage, long-distance transmission lines and substations that connect generating facilities to distribution systems.

**Ground Wire** – Two wires installed along the transmission line at the top of the tower structures to protect the conductors from lightning strikes by transferring the energy from the lightning through the ground wires and structures into the ground below.

## H

**Habitat** – The region where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and home range.

**Habitat Fragmentation** – A reduction in area of undisturbed, continuous habitat. Often affects interior forest species that depend on unbroken expanses of mature coniferous forest.

**Habitation** – A site inhabited or used intensively over an extended period of time, either year-round or on a seasonal basis. Habitations are frequently characterized by multiple activity areas, extensive and diverse scatters of lithic debitage and specialized tools, ceramics, architectural remains, storage structures, thermal features, and well-developed middens.

**Habitat obligate** – Species that is limited in its habitat to a few specific environmental conditions

**Hazardous Air Pollutants** – Air pollutants not covered by ambient air quality standards, but that may present a threat of adverse human health effects or adverse environmental effects, as defined in the Clean Air Act..

**Herbaceous** – Of, or having the nature of, an herb or herbs, as distinguished from woody plants.

**Herd Management Area (HMA)** – An area that has been designated for continuing management of wild horses.

**Historic property** – Any district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (maintained by the Secretary of the Interior [36 CFR 800]).

**Human Environment** – Includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment.

## I

**Impact** – See “Effect”

**Implementation Plan** – A site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land-use plan. An implementation plan usually selects and applies best-management practices to meet land-use-plan objectives.

**Indian Tribe** – Any extant or historical tribe, band, nation, or other group or community of indigenous peoples in the United State that is federally recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States because of their status as Indians pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.D.C. 450 et seq.). An Indian tribe, situated within the boundaries of a state, exercises the powers of government and sovereignty, under the national government.

**Indirect Effect** – Caused by the action later in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth-rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems (40 CFR 1508.8(b)).

**Indirect Impact** – Effects caused by the action and occur later in time or are farther removed, but are still reasonably foreseeable (see Direct Impact).

**In-kind (as it relates to mitigation)** – In-kind mitigation is the replacement or substitution of resources or values of the same type and kind as those affected (e.g., greater sage-grouse winter habitat is lost, and greater sage-grouse winter habitat is enhanced or conserved).

**Instruction Memorandum** – A memorandum containing policy or procedure.

**Insulator** – A device resistant to electrical conduction used for isolating and supporting conductors.

**Interdisciplinary Team** – A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline can provide insights on any stage of the problem and disciplines can combine to provide new solutions. Also Agency Interdisciplinary Team.

**Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA)** – The IBLA is an appellate review body that exercises the delegated authority of the Secretary of the Interior to issue final decisions for the Department of the Interior. Its administrative judges decide appeals from bureau decisions relating to the use and disposition of public lands and their resources, mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and the conduct of surface coal mining operations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. Located within the Department's Office of Hearings and Appeals, IBLA is separate and independent from the Bureaus and Offices whose decisions it reviews.

**Intermittent** – A river or stream that flows for a period of time, usually seasonally during rainy periods, and stops during dry periods. In arid regions, dry periods may be interrupted by occasional flash floods from brief but intense rain storms.

**Invasive Species** – A species that is not native (or is alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm to human health (Executive Order 13112).

**Inventoried Roadless Area** – An area identified by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as undeveloped, typically exceeding 5,000 acres, that meets minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and has been inventoried during the USFS Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning. These areas can overlap with unroaded/undeveloped areas.

**Issue** – An issue is a point or matter of discussion, debate, or dispute about the potential environmental effects of an action. Issues point to environmental effects and may influence the development of alternatives to the proposed action.

## J

**Jurassic** – The middle period of the Mesozoic era spanning the time between 201.3 and 145 million years ago, characterized by the dominance of dinosaurs and the appearance of flying reptiles and birds.

**Jurisdictions** – The limits or territory within which authority may be exercised.

## K

**Kcmil** – Abbreviation for a thousand circular mils. Kcmil is a unit used to express large conductor sizes.

**Kiln** – A thermally insulated structure used for firing, burning, hardening, or drying materials.

**Kilovolt (kV)** – A kilovolt is equal to 1,000 volts. This unit of measurement is most commonly used when describing transmission and distribution lines.

**Kilovolts per Meter (kV/m)** – A unit measure of electric field strength.

## L

**Lacustrine** – Lakes and ponds that have more than 2 acres in surface area.

**Landform** – A term used to describe the many types of land surfaces that exist as a result of geologic activity and weathering (e.g., plateaus, mountains, plains, and valleys).

**Land and Resources Management Plan (LRMP)** – An U.S. Forest Service land-use management plan that provides a framework for on-the-ground decision-making, for integrated resource management, and for guiding project and activity decision-making on a national forest, grassland, prairie, or other administrative unit.

**Land Use Plan** – As set of decisions that establish the direction for management of land within an administrative area, (pertaining to federal land, as prescribed under the planning provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act).

**Lek** – A traditional courtship-display area attended by male greater sage-grouse in or adjacent to sagebrush-dominated habitat. Designation of the site as a lek requires the observation of two or more male sage-grouse engaged in courtship displays. New leks must be confirmed by a survey conducted during the appropriate time of day and during the strutting season. Observation of sign of strutting also can be used to confirm a suspected lek.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Site** - The National Park Service provides matching grants to state and local governments for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. (Section 6(f)(3) of Land and Water Conservation Fund Act)

**Linear Facility** – Project or action with linear features such as roadways (i.e., interstates, state routes, minor roads, and off-highway vehicle routes), transmission and distribution line right-of-ways, federally designated utility corridors, existing highways (e.g., I-15, I-70, and I-80; U.S. Highways 6 and 40), pipelines, and railroads.

**Link** – A segment of a route alternative sharing common endpoints with adjacent links. Endpoints of a link are determined by the location of intersections with other segments (links) of other routes.

**Lithics** – A general term used to refer to chipped stone artifacts or debitage.

**Lithic Procurement Area** – An area from which raw materials were obtained and removed for lithic tool manufacture and refurbishing.

**Lithology** – The structure and composition of a rock formation, and the study of rocks with the unaided eye, or with little magnification.

**Livestock Enclosure** – Any roofed or unroofed structure designated to contain domestic animals. It may be constructed of any materials and incorporate natural features or vegetation as part of the enclosure.

**Load (electric)** – The amount of electric power delivered or required at any specific point or points on a system. The requirement originates at the energy-consuming equipment of the consumers.

**LR2000** – A data base for land and mineral records of the BLM. It is used to retrieve individual data such as a case file serial page or to compile reports by case types or geographical location.

## M

**Megawatt (MW)** – The generation of electricity is measured in megawatts (MW). 1 MW is equal to 1,000 kilowatts or 1 million watts.

**Magnetic Field** – Electric effect resulting from an electric current flowing in a conductor. Unit of measurement is a Gauss.

**Mesozoic** – An era of geologic time between the Paleozoic and the Cenozoic eras, spanning the time between 252.17 and 66 million years ago.

**Metamorphic** – A rock formed through metamorphism. Metamorphism is the change in the mineralogical, structural, or textural composition of rocks under intense heat and pressure (e.g., turning limestone into marble).

**Migratory** – Birds, animals, or people that migrate or move from one region or country to another.

**Mineral Resources** – Any inorganic or organic substance occurring naturally in the earth that has a consistent and distinctive set of physical properties. Examples of mineral resources include coal, nickel, gold, silver, and copper.

**Minimization** (as it relates to mitigation) – Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation (40 CFR 1508.20).

**Miocene** – The epoch of the Tertiary period spanning the time between 23.03 and 5.3 million years ago.

**Mitigate** – To alleviate, reduce, or render less intense or severe.

**Mitigation** – Measures or procedures that could reduce or avoid adverse impacts and have not been incorporated into the proposed action or an alternative. Mitigation can be applied to reduce or avoid adverse effects on the human environment.

**Monitoring** – Actions performed to ensure compliance with the terms, conditions, and stipulations of a grant or temporary-use permit.

**Mound (structural)** – A pile of material and sediments that probably represent the remains of a habitation structure.

**Mudstone** – A hardened sedimentary rock consisting of clay that is similar to shale, but does not occur in distinct, bonded layers.

**Multiple Use** – Coordinated management of various surface and subsurface resources so that they are used in the combination that will best meet present and future needs.

## N

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** – The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set NAAQS (40 CFR part 50) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The Clean Air Act established two types of national air quality standards. *Primary standards* set limits to protect public health, including the health of “sensitive” populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. *Secondary standards* set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. The EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six principal pollutants, which are called “criteria” pollutants.

**National Conservation Area** – An area designated by Congress, generally, to conserve, protect, enhance, and properly manage the resources and values for which it was designated for the benefit and the enjoyment of present and future generations (BLM Manual 6220).

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)** – Public Law 91-190. An Act that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment, promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere, stimulates the health and welfare of man, enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation, and establishes the CEQ.

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)** – Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq. A law authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to expand and maintain a National Register of Historic Places and directing federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the ACHP a reasonable opportunity to comment.

**National Monument** – Area designated by the president of the United States by proclamation pursuant to the Antiquities Act of 1906 for the protection, restoration, or enhancement of the resources, objects, and values for which it was designated. (BLM Manual 6220)

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)** – A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects maintained by the National Park Service (NPS), each determined by NPS to be of historic, cultural, architectural, archaeological, or engineering significance at the local, state, or national level, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

**Native American** – A member of any of the aboriginal peoples of the western hemisphere, especially native peoples of the United States and its territories, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Chamorros, and American Samoans.

**Native Load Customers** – The wholesale and retail customers on whose behalf the transmission provider, by statute, franchise, regulatory requirement, or contracts, has undertaken an obligation to construct and operate the transmission provider’s system to meet the reliable electric needs of such customers.

**Native Species** – A species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in an ecosystem (Executive Order 13112).

**Native Vegetation** – Natural vegetation originating in a certain region or country.

**Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)** – The result of nitric oxide (a gas formed by combustion and a precursor of ground-level ozone pollution, also known as smog) combining with oxygen in the atmosphere and a major component of photochemical smog. One of the six criteria pollutants.

**Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)** – Product of combustion from transportation and stationary sources consisting of a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen compounds, including nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide.

**Node** – The common endpoint of adjacent links.

**Nonattainment Area** – Area that does not meet one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the criteria pollutants designated in the Clean Air Act.

**Nonspecular Conductors** – Conductors treated to reduce reflection, rendering the conductor less shiny and noticeable.

**Non-wilderness Study Area Lands With Wilderness Characteristics** – Non-wilderness study area lands with wilderness characteristics are those lands that have been inventoried and determined by the BLM to contain wilderness characteristics as defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, 16 U.S.C. 1131, et seq. These attributes include the area's size, its apparent naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

**Notice of Availability (NOA)** – The *Federal Register* notice that an EIS (draft or final) or record of decision is available. Publication of a notice of filing of an EIS by the Environmental Protection Agency formally begins the public comment period.

**Notice of Intent (NOI)** – This *Federal Register* notice announces that an EIS or an EA-level land-use plan will be prepared. Publication of this notice formally starts the scoping process.

**Notice to Proceed** – A written authorization by the Authorized Officer that allows the holder to initiate actions under the grant. A notice to proceed usually is used to allow a grant to be issued, while preventing the holder from starting surface-disturbing activities before a plan of development (POD) is approved. The Authorized Officer can issue separate notices to proceed if the project involves distinct work phases and/or locations. Each notice to proceed will specify the nature of the work, location, and dates to be authorized.

**Noxious Weed** – A plant species designated by federal or state law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or non-native, new, or not common to the United States.

## O

**Oligocene** – The epoch of the Tertiary period spanning the time between 33.7 and 23.8 million years ago.



**100-year Flood** – A flood with a magnitude that may occur once every 100 years. A 1-in-100 chance of a certain area being inundated during any year.

**Occupied Lek** – A lek that has been active during at least one strutting season within the last 10 years. Management protection will be afforded to occupied leks.

**Opportunity** – Areas of opportunities for siting a transmission line; typically include linear features such as existing and future overhead lines, designated utility corridors, existing interstate and intrastate highways, pipelines, and railroads and areas where there are no environmental constraints precluding access to or siting of structures or facilities.

**Out-of-kind** (as it relates to mitigation) – Out-of-kind is the replacement or substitution of resources or values that are not the same type and kind as those affected but are related or similar (e.g., greater sage-grouse winter habitat is lost, but new greater sage-grouse nesting habitat is enhanced or conserved).

**Outage** – The period during which a generating unit, transmission line, or other facility is out of service.

**Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)** – A form of oxygen produced when an electric spark is passed through oxygen or air. One of six criteria pollutants.

## P

**Paleocene** – The first geologic epoch of the Cenozoic Era covering the time between 66 and 56 million years ago. This is the era immediately following the extinction of the dinosaurs.

**Paleontology** – The science that deals with the life of past geological ages through the study of the fossil remains of organisms.

**Paleontological Resources** – Any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth.

**Paleozoic** – The geologic era between the Precambrian and Mesozoic eras covering the time between 541 million and 252.17 million years ago. The era was characterized by the development of the first fish, amphibians, reptiles, and land plants.

**Palustrine** – A marsh or marsh-like environment.

**Particulate Matter** – Minute, separate particles, such as dust or other air pollutants. PM<sub>10</sub> is a measure of particles in the atmosphere with a diameter of less than, or equal to, a nominal 10 micrometers aerodynamic equivalent diameter. PM<sub>2.5</sub> is a measure of particles in the atmosphere with a diameter of less than, or equal to, a nominal 2.5 micrometers aerodynamic equivalent diameter. These are criteria pollutants.

**Peak Demand** – The maximum load during a specified period of time.

**Peaking Capacity** – Capacity of generation equipment normally reserved for operation during the hours of highest daily, weekly, or seasonal loads. Some generating equipment may be operated at certain times as peaking capacity and at other times to serve loads on an around-the-clock basis.

**Per Capita Income** – Calculated by dividing total income in a specified area (e.g., county) by the area's population.

**Perennial** – Lasting or active through the whole year. May refer to rivers, streams, or plants.

**Petroglyph** – A design or motif pecked, incised, abraded, scratched, or carved with a sharp element into a rock surface.

**Physiographic Province** – An area characterized by distinctive topography, geologic structure, climate, drainage patterns, and other features and phenomena of nature.

**Pictograph** – A design or motif produced by painting with mineral pigments on a rock surface; painted rock art.

**Pithouse** – A habitation structure built entirely or partially underground.

**Plan of Development (POD)** – A complete description of and design for the proposed project. It includes, but is not limited to, proposed plans, specifications, construction methods, schedules, restoration practices, and other information pertinent to the proposal; the POD becomes part of the right-of-way grant or permit. The POD can include sections for construction, maintenance, and termination. The content of the POD will vary with the complexity of the proposal.

**Plateau** – An elevated tract of relatively level land, such as a tableland or mesa.

**Playa** – The shallow central basin of a desert plain where water gathers after a rain and is evaporated.

**Pleistocene** – The first geologic epoch during the Quaternary period, spanning from 2.6 million years ago to about 9000 Before Present, characterized by extensive continental glaciations in the Northern Hemisphere.

**Policy** – A guiding principle on which a specific decision or set of decisions is based.

**Population** – A group of organisms, all of the same species, which occupies a particular area. The term is used to refer to the number of individuals of a species within an ecosystem or of any group of like individuals.

**Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC)** – A system of classification by which geologic units are classified based on the relative abundance of vertebrate fossils or scientifically significant invertebrate or plant fossils and their sensitivity to adverse impacts, with a higher class number indicating a higher potential. This classification is applied to the geologic formation, member, or other distinguishable unit, preferably at the most detailed mappable level. The PFYC system is meant to provide baseline guidance for predicting, assessing, and mitigating paleontological resources. The classes that serve as guidelines for identifying potential for a formation to yield fossils include Class 1 – Very Low, Class 2 – Low, Class 3 – Moderate or Unknown, Class 4 High, and Class 5 – Very High.

**Power** – A term usually meant to imply both energy and capacity.

**Precambrian** – The earliest geologic era covering all time from the formation of the earth and ending at the Paleozoic Era, which began about 541 million years ago.

**Preferred Alternative** – The alternative believed to reasonably accomplish the purpose and need for the proposed action while fulfilling the statutory missions and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical, and other factors. This alternative may or may not be the same as the applicant's preferred alternative.

**Primitive** – An area that is not developed; a pristine natural area.

**Project Area** – The preliminary study area defined to examine all feasible siting corridors for the Project. Established by the Applicant's interest and objectives for the Project, the Project description and other siting criteria such as potential major substation interconnect points, existing designated utility corridors, existing extra-high-voltage transmission lines, geography, and land-use designations (e.g., National Parks, wilderness areas).

**Proposal** – The stage in the development of an action when a federal agency has a goal and is actively preparing to make a decision on one or more alternative means of accomplishing that goal, and the effects can be meaningfully evaluated (40 FR 1508.23). Then a federal agency receives or makes a proposal, the NEPA process begins.

**Proposed Action** – A proposal for a federal agency to authorize, recommend, or implement an action to address a clear purpose and need. Alternatives are developed to consider different reasonable paths to take to accomplish the same purpose and need of the proposed action.

**Protest** – An opportunity for a qualified party to seek an administrative review of a proposed decision in accordance with program-specific regulations. For example, a protest may be filed with the Director of the BLM for review of a proposed resource management plan or plan amendment (43 CFR 1610.5-2), or a proposed grazing decision may be protested for review by the Authorized officer (43 CFR 4160.2).

**Public Land (FLPMA)** – Any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several states and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM without regards to how the United States acquired ownership except (1) land located on the Outer Continental Shelf and (2) land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

**Public Land (other)** – As used in this document, federally owned surface or mineral estate specifically administered by the BLM.

## Q

**Quarry** – An area from which rock or minerals (e.g., ore, limestone, coal, gravel, and sand pits) have been excavated and extracted for use off-site.

**Quaternary** – The second period of the Cenozoic era spanning 1.8 (recently refined to 2.6) million years ago to the present. This is the period of glaciations in the northern hemisphere.

**Quaternary Fault** – A fault that has been active or has had displacement during the Quaternary Period, between 1.8 million years ago and the present. These faults are most likely to be active on human time scales.

## R

**Raptor** – A bird of prey.

**Reclamation** – Returning disturbed lands to a form and productivity that will be ecologically balanced.

**Reconnaissance** – Preliminary examination or survey of a territory.

**Recontouring** – Returning a surface to, or near to, its original form through some type of action, such as grading.

**Record of Decision (ROD)** – A document separate from, but associated with, an EIS that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on the proposed action.

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)** – A planning process that provides a framework for defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. The settings, activities, and opportunities for experiences are arranged along a continuum or spectrum of classes. The resulting analysis defines specific geographic areas on the ground, each of which encompasses one of the classes.

**Rectify** (as it relates to mitigation) – Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment (40 CFR 1508.20).

**Reduce or Eliminate Over Time** (as it relates to mitigation) – Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action (40 CFR 1508.20).

**Reference Centerline** – For purposes of assessing impacts and recommending mitigation, a centerline is assigned that may be slightly adjusted during engineering design.

**Region** – A large tract of land generally recognized as having similar character types and physiographic types.

**Renewable Resource** – Any natural resource that can replenish itself naturally over time.

**Research Natural Area** – A part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity of National Forest System lands. Research Natural Areas are principally for nonmanipulative research, observation, and study. (Forest Service Manual-4063)

**Residual Impact** – Those impacts remaining after mitigation has been applied to the proposed action or an alternative.

**Reasonably Foreseeable Action** – Actions for which there are existing decisions, funding, formal proposals, or which are highly probable, based on known opportunities or trends.

**Reasoned Choice** – A choice based on a “hard look” at how the proposed action or alternatives respond to the purpose and need.

**Residual impact** – Impacts from a land-use authorization that remain after applying avoidance, minimization, rectification, and reduction/elimination measures; also referred to as unavoidable impacts.

**Resource Management Plan** – A set of decisions that establish the direction for management of land within an administrative area, in this case, land administered by the BLM, as prescribed under the planning provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, P.L. 94-579, 90 Stat. 2743.

**Revegetation** – The reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance, such as reseeding.

**Rhizomatous** – Having a long underground stem system that cannot be viewed above ground and which may disintegrate over time

**Right-of-way** – A permit or grant that authorizes the use of lands for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric transmission lines, reservoirs, etc.; also, the land covered by such a permit or grant.

**Riparian** – A transition between wetlands or water bodies and upland areas. An aquatic or terrestrial ecosystem associated with bodies of water, such as streams, lakes, or wetlands, or is dependent on the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water drainage. Riparian areas are usually characterized by dense vegetation and an abundance and diversity of wildlife.

**Rock Art** – Inclusive term referring to both pictographs and petroglyphs

**Route** – A transmission route is the general path of a transmission line and associated facilities.

## S

**Sandstone** – A common sedimentary rock primarily composed of sand grains, mainly quartz cemented together by other minerals.

**Scenic Backway** – A paved or dirt road reaching secluded areas of natural beauty.

**Scenic Byway** – A specially designated road that travels through an area of natural beauty.

**Scenic Quality** – The visual appeal of a tract of land based on landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications in relationship to the natural landscape.

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)** – A portion of the landscape that displays primarily homogeneous visual characteristics of the basic landscape features (landform, water, vegetation, and structures and modifications), which separate it from the surrounding landscape.

**Sediment** – Solid fragmental material, either mineral or organic, transported or deposited by air, water, gravity, or ice.

**Segment** – A combination of links.

**Selective Mitigation** – Measures or techniques developed to reduce adverse impacts on a case-by-case or selective basis.

**Semi-arid** – A climate or region characterized by little yearly rainfall and the growth of a number of short grasses and shrubs.

**Sensitivity** – The state of being readily affected by the actions of external influence.

**Sensitivity Level Rating Unit (SLRU)** – The designation (high, medium, or low) assigned to a landscape area to indicate the concern of the public to changes in the landscape (BLM designation).

**Series Compensation Station** – Facility that improve the transport capacity and efficiency of the transmission line.

**Shield Wire** – (see Ground Wire)

**Significant Impact** – Effects of sufficient context and intensity that an EIS is required. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR 1508.27(b) include ten considerations for evaluating intensity.

**Simulations** – The use of a computer to calculate the effect of a given physical process.

**Site** – In general, a compact area, usually involving nonlinear facilities (e.g., substation, series compensation station). In archaeology, any locale showing evidence of human activity.

**Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)** – An administrative unit where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation.

**Special Recreation Use Permit** – An authorization which allow for recreation uses of the public lands and related waters. They are issues as a means to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. (BLM Handbook H-2930-1)

**Species** – A group of individuals of common ancestry that closely resemble each other structurally and physiologically and in nature interbreed, producing fertile offspring.

**Spanning** – Placing tower structures so the transmission line extends across a sensitive area or resource

**Spring** – A place where groundwater flows naturally onto the land surface, often the source of a stream.

**Staging Area** – A designated area where vehicles, supplies, and construction equipment are positioned for use and access to a construction site.

**Stipulation** – A condition, requirement, or term specified in a grant.

**Structures** – Structures support transmission lines. Structures are different sizes and shapes depending on the voltage of the line and number of circuits each tower structure need to carry.

**Study Area** – A given geographical area delineated for specific research.

**Study Corridor** – The area of study (i.e., resource inventory and effects analysis) for a particular resource determined by the Agency Interdisciplinary Team; varies for each resource based on the area that potentially could be affected.

**Subspecies** – Any natural subdivision of a species that exhibits small, but persistent morphological variations from other subdivisions of the same species living in different geographical regions or times.

**Substantial Deviation** – Change in the authorized locations or use that requires (1) construction or use outside the boundaries or the right-of-way or temporary-use permit or (2) any change from, or modification of, the authorized use.

**Substantive Comment** – A comment that does one or more of the following: (1) questions, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EIS or EA; (2) questions, with reasonable basis or facts, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis; (3) presents reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EIS or EA; or (4) promotes the lead agency to consider changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.

**Substation** – An electrical power station that is the connection point between transmission and distribution systems. Substations house the equipment used to route, control, and protect the flow of power in the electrical system. It also is a facility in an electrical transmission system with the capability to transform power to a higher or lower voltage. Equipment includes transformers, circuit breakers, and other equipment for switching, changing, or regulating the voltage of electricity.

**Substrates** – Sediment that lies beneath the surface of the earth.

**Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)** – A pungent, colorless, gas formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels. One of the six criteria pollutants.

**Sweathouse** – An enclosure or hut used for steam baths, usually ephemeral in construction.

**Synergistic** – Interaction of conditions such that the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects.

## T

**Take** – As defined by the Endangered Species Act, “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.”

**Talus** – A pile of rock debris at the foot of a cliff or steep slope.

**Tangent Structure** – Typical transmission line structure. Can be one of several types placed four to five per mile in linear position.

**Taxonomy** – A system of arranging animals and plants into natural, related groups based on some factor common to each, such as structure or biochemistry.

**Technical Report** – Documentation of detailed studies summarized in the Draft EIS.

**Temporary-use Permit (TUP)** – A document the BLM issues under 30 U.S.C. 185 that is a revocable, nonpossessory privilege to use specified federal land in the vicinity of, and in connection with a right-of-way to construct, operate, maintain, or terminate a pipeline to protect the environment or public safety. A TUP does not convey any interest in land.

**Tepee** – A temporary, tripod or conical habitation structure constructed of elk or buffalo hide, cut limbs, grass, brush, or bark overlaying a frame.

**Tertiary** – The first period of the Cenozoic era (after the Mesozoic era and before the Quaternary period), spanning the time period between 66 and 2.6 million years ago.

**Thermal Feature** – A localized area of controlled intentional burning. Includes fire pits, fire rings, burned rock rings, and slab-lined hearths.

**Third-party Contracting** – Contracting for the preparation of NEPA documents that is funded by the non-federal proponent of an action. The federal agency must provide the direction for preparing the NEPA document and must approve the analysis and document.

**Threatened Species ('I' or LT)** – Any plant or animal species defined under the Endangered Species Act as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion or all of its range; listings are published in the *Federal Register*.

**Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)** – Any built or natural locations, areas, or features considered sacred or culturally significant by a group or people because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

**Transmission** – The movement or transfer of electric energy over an interconnected group of line and associated equipment between points of supply and points at which it is transformed for delivery to consumers, or is delivered to other electric systems. Transmission is considered to end with the energy is transformed for distribution to the consumer.

**Transmission Line** – Transmission lines connect the power produced at generating facilities to substations. Over long distances, it is most effective to transport electricity at high voltages.

**Transmission System** – An interconnected group of electric transmission lines and associated equipment for moving or transferring electric energy in bulk between point of supply and points at which it is transformed for delivery over the distribution system lines to consumers, or is delivered to other electric systems.

**Trash Scatter** – A non-purposeful surficial arrangement of discarded historic artifacts.

**Triassic** – The first period of the Mesozoic era spanning the time between 252.17 and 201.3 million years ago, characterized by the first appearance of dinosaurs and mammals.

**Tributary** – A stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river.

## U

**Unauthorized Use** – The use, occupancy, or development of the public land without authorization or using, occupying, and developing them in a way that is beyond the scope and terms and conditions of an authorization. It includes acts or omissions causing undue or unnecessary degradation to the occupied public land.

**Unemployment** – Persons are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work. Persons who were not working and were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been temporarily laid off are also included as unemployed. The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force.

**Ungulate** – A hoofed typically herbivorous quadruped mammal.



**Unroaded/Undeveloped Area** – An area identified by the USFS containing wilderness qualities or attributes and roadless qualities pursuant to the National Forest System Land Resource Management Planning Rule of 1982. These areas can overlap with inventoried roadless areas.

**Uranium** – A very hard, heavy, silvery, metallic, chemical element that is crucial to the research and development of atomic energy.

## V

**Vegetation Communities** – A combination of dominant plant species that live together in the same region or on the same landform.

**Vegetation Clearing** – Clearing of vegetation in the Project right-of-way prior to Project construction.

**Viewshed** – Visible portion of the specific landscape seen from a specific viewpoint, normally limited by landform, vegetation, distance, and existing cultural modifications.

**Visual Management Objectives** – The term used in this study to generally define Visual Resource Management (BLM) or Visual Quality Objectives (USFS).

**Visual Resource** – Visible feature of the landscape, such as land, water, vegetation, and other features that make up the scenery of an area.

**Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Classes** – Classification of landscape areas composed of scenic quality, sensitivity level rating units (SLRU), and distance zones for inventory purposes (BLM).

**Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes** – Classification of landscapes according to the kinds of structures and changes acceptable to meet established visual goals (BLM).

**Visual Management System (VMS)** – System to inventory existing scenic values and to manage USFS-administered lands based upon meeting visual management goals (USFS).

**Visual Quality Objectives (VQO)** – Classification of landscapes to set an acceptable level of alteration from the natural landscape (USFS).

**Volatile Organic Compound (VOC)** – Any organic compound that participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions except those designated by the EPA as having negligible photochemical reactivity.

**Volt** – A measure of electrical potential difference that would cause a current of ampere to flow through a conductor whose resistance is 1 ohm.

**Volts Per Meter** – A unit of measurement of an electric field.

## W

**Waters of the United States** – All waters currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including adjacent wetlands and tributaries to waters of the United States, and all waters by which the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

**Watershed** – All lands that are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lay upslope from a specified point on a stream.

**Watt** – A unit of electrical power equal to 1/756 horsepower.

**Wetlands** – Those areas inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

**Wickiup** – A temporary, dome-shaped habitation structure constructed of cut limbs, matting, reeds, reed matting, or bark overlaying a frame.

**Wild and Scenic River (WSR)** – A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. Types of streams include flowing bodies of water or estuaries or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes, the system consists of three types of streams: (1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and hat may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past; (2) scenic—rivers or sections of rivers free from impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads; and (3) wild—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

**Wild Horse Herd Management Area** – A herd area that has been evaluated and determined by the BLM to have adequate food, water, cover, and space to sustain healthy and diverse wild horse and burro populations over the long-term (BLM Handbook H-4700-1).

**Wilderness** – A congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions, as described in Section 2A of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

**Wilderness Characteristics** – Characteristics of lands that include a lack of permanent human improvements or habitation, primeval character intact, affected primarily by the forces of nature, and/or presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

**Wilderness Study Area** – A roadless area or island of undeveloped federal land inventoried and found to possess wilderness qualities or attributes described under Title VI, Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Section 2C of the Wilderness Act of 1964. These characteristics include the following:

- (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable
- (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation
- (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition
- (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value

**Wilderness Qualities or Attributes** – Key qualities or attributes of wilderness listed in section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and used by BLM in conducting wilderness inventories. These characteristics

are features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness that specifically deals with naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. These characteristics may be considered in land use planning when BLM determines those characteristics are reasonably present, of sufficient value (condition, uniqueness, relevance, importance), need (trend, risk), and practical to manage (from IM-2003-275, Change 1, Considerations of Wilderness Characteristics in Land Use Plan, Attachment 1).

**Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA)** – Special management areas that are designed to protect or preserve certain qualities or uses for wildlife and plant species. The environment in these areas is unique in some respects, and it is therefore desirable to apply to different management prescriptions to these areas from those of the surrounding public lands. The integration of different land-management goals, objectives, and actions will be implemented to ensure that the integrity of these areas will be maintained. They will be directed toward habitat management rather than species management and encompass featured species and species diversity to ensure compliance with existing laws; prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered, and provide values and uses for the public.

**Wind Energy** – Form of energy conversion in which turbines convert the kinetic energy of wind into mechanical or electrical energy that can be used for power.

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